NUMBER OF SCHOOLS ENTERED IN WILDLIFE ESSAY CONTEST HITS RECORD MARK

Over 400 school, are now officially entered in this year's Wildlife Essay Contest sponsored by the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the Virginia Division of the Izaak Walton League of America, exceeding the previous record of 378 schools set in 1956, the Commission reports. The number of eligible students enrolled in these schools exceed, 109,000, but not all of these are expected to submit essays. A total of $2,900 in cash prizes and scholarship award, awaiting the winners of the contest will be awarded next spring. This year's subject is "Why Legal Hunting and Fishing Are Good Conservation Practices" and the closing date is January 31, 1962. Students in grades 5 through 12 of those schools officially entered are eligible for the 223 prizes to be awarded.

All schools not yet entered are urged to do so well in advance of the January 31 deadline. Official entry blank, and contest information can be obtained from the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries' office in Richmond.

HUNTER SAFETY EDUCATION FORCE GROWS

An additional 21 NRA Hunter Safety Instructors were added to the State's growing force which now total, over 700, according to J. N. Kerrick, Virginia Game Commission safety training officer, when the game wardens in north-central Virginia were qualified on December 5. To qualify as a hunter safety instructor, a candidate must attend a special course in hunter education methods and pass a written examination on the safe handling of firearms. The Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, in cooperation with the National Rifle Association, is currently training its own personnel to train local instructors.

During October, 40 safe hunters were graduated from courses given by these instructors, bringing the number who received hunters safety training this year in Virginia to 450. Since the inception of hunter safety training, 5,757 Virginia hunters have completed the official National Rifle Association course.

PICNICS PLANNED

Australians go in for outdoor picnics at Christmas time since it's summertime "down under" then.

EUROPEAN RED CLOVER NOT ADAPTED IN VIRGINIA

European red clover is not adapted in Virginia, this warning to Virginia farmers from Howard C. Fuss, associate professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, is compiled with a seasonal report. He says domestic red clover seed production is 21 per cent below the average of the past decade, and prices are strong. This sets the stage for European grown red clover seed to move into the American market.

So when you buy red clover seed read the analysis tag to determine the origin. For additional protection to the buyer the Federal Seed Act requires that an least 10 per cent of seed of European origin be stained red.

No shortage of seed is expected but if you buy early you will have a choice of variety and seed quality. Potts says Virginia's production of red clover this year is large enough to plant about one-half the acreage normally planted. This is nearly a 50 per cent higher ate production than the 1950-59 average.

In tests conducted by the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, plots seeded with European strains produced only two-thirds the yield produced by the recommended varieties — Chesaw-key, Kenland, Pennscot, and Virginia A. Tested. In these tests, the lowest yielding recommended variety produced nearly three-fourths of a ton more hay per acre than the best of the European strains.

NORWAY PREPARES

In Norway preparations for Christmas traditionally start six months before December 24. The Christmas celebration itself lasts three weeks. The period, according to Book of Knowledge researchers, is known as the Julafred, or the Peace of Christmas.

PINATA SCRAMBLE

In Mexico and other Latin American countries, the breaking of the pinata is a traditional Christmas custom. Earthen jars are filled with toys and sweets, covered with colored papier-mache figures and hung in an open space. Blindfolded children take turns at trying to break the pinata with a stick. When it is smashed, there's a merry scramble for its contents.

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Vera

Vera, Dec. 12.- "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." -Gal. 6-16.

It seems that December has really brought us winter weather.

People are busy preparing for Christmas. I hope for nice weather.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Carson and Sylvia visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Harvey on Sunday.

Mr. Walker Webb has gotten home from the hospital. Mr. and T. C. Harvey and Harriette visited in his home Sunday night.

Mr. T. C. Harvey visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dock Franklin on Wednesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Harvey returned home on Friday, after visiting in the homes of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Harvey in Lynchburg, Mrs. Mildred Warters and Mrs. Ada Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Coleman, Mrs. Janie Cwernault, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coleman and Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Harvey.

Mrs. Peggy Harvey and T. C. III visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Harvey on Sunday.

Mrs. Hallie Morris is visiting in the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Webb.

STATUES HONORED

In Italy the Presepio, or crib, is an characteristic of Christmas as is the tree in other countries. To the Presepio, people bring gifts of nuts and apples, which they place in the hands of life-sized figures.

SAINT IS REALITY

Swedish Yuletide ceremonies begin officially on December 13, St. Lucy's Day. According to legend, St. Lucy went about carrying food and drink to the needy. The Swedes give the legend reality by choosing one of the girls in the family to represent St. Lucy. St. Lucy rises early and wakens each member of the family, serves them coffee and bakes buns.

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